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charms were yet further heightened by the notes of the wood lark, which I now first heard beginning his autumnal song, he seemed really "blithe to salute the sunny smile of morn," and I listened with much attention to his song, till I arrived at an antient church, by the road, which I stepped aside to examine. "Hail! solitary ruins," I inwardly exclaimed as I ascended the steps leading into the graveyard, in which this ruin is situated; I advanced, and entering its white incrustated walls, sat down on a headstone, both to rest myself and take a more minute view of this very solitary ruin, whose venerable walls reminded me of the frailty incident to all sublunary things. The appearance of this cemetery testifies it to be of considerable antiquity, and the building, probably, one of the primitive churches built of lime and stone, as it is very small with gothic windows, which distinguished the early churches, of this country; the fabric is yielding fast to the iron hand of time," as I observed several fragments of its walls lying about the yard, once "the pious work

"Of names once fam'd, now dubious or forgot."

Having sat some time in rather a melancholy reverie, I arose and began to examine the inscriptions on the different headstones, but found none worth transmitting to the reader's notice, the name, age, and time of death, being all contained on those frail memorials; the one I had sat on, belonged to the Hills, one of the most antient and respectable families in the island, "as tradition says, the family of the Hills saved several Roman Catholics, during the massacre of 1642, by secreting them in a corn kiln; an act highly honourable to them, and worthy of being recorded to those professing that religion whose divine author has said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Leaving this place where "The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," I redoubled my pace, and slanting to the right across the fields, reached a road leading direct to Port-muck, for which I steered with lengthening steps; my walk since leaving home had been

very solemn, and on this road it was still further increased by the few houses near it, and no passengers to be seen in any direction, therefore the silence of the morn was seldom disturbed by any thing save the rustling of the ripe corn, by the breeze, or the flight of sparrows from one field to another: I shall therefore present the reader with some account, not generally known of this Island. S. M. S.

To be Continued.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

I HAVE been an attentive observer of the different Essays which have lately appeared respecting the building of the School House, and establishing the Lancastrian mode of teaching in this town. I am sorry to find that there is not that unanimity amongst those Essayists which a true friend to the institution could wish.

A person signing himself C. S. has endeavoured to discourage any attempts being made towards teaching the poor children of this town, by representing them as the most incorrigible race, that ever disgraced humanity: this piece has been well answered by Humanitas. For these articles see Commercial Chronicle of 26th ult. and first and sixth instant.

But, Mr. Editor, a more dangerous enemy has been discovered than the fanatic C. S. after the close of the retrospect of politics in your magazine for September last, a writer has given something by way of appendix to that article. And though a dash appears to end the monthly retrospect of politics, yet it is plain, that this writer, by his introduction or head, wishes his paper should be considered the conclusion of it.

This writer like C. S. sets out with approving of "the laudable exertion to promote the benefit of education among the poorer classes;" but endeavours to deprive the managers of the confidence of the public, by bringing a charge of extravagance against them in unnecessarily squandering away the public money by building a magnificent house. "In viewing the building," he says, "now erecting for that purpose, it appears to be on too magnificent a scale; there ought to be every accommodation both in

size and ventilation, but no superfluity, no ornaments of cut stone, nor large windows mere calculated for show than use," and in another place mentioning J. Lancaster's school, he says, "in it there is no ostentatious display of architecture." By this it might appear to a person who had not seen the house, that it was really an extravagant building, perhaps decorated with porticoes, colonades, and other expensive ornaments in stone or sculpture, and in this case did not deserve the encouragement of a discerning public.

Mr. Editor, having seen in the *Bel-fast News Letter* two different essays recommending a larger house, and stating that if it was finished with one story, the common necessary convenience could not be had; my curiosity was excited to examine a building on which there was so much difference of opinion. But judge my surprise, when I found it to be a very plain building, with no ornaments of cut stone, and with windows of a very moderate size for so large a house, and no ostentatious display of architecture.

For the information of those who have not seen the house, I shall state its dimensions, and describe it as nearly as I can from the information I received on the subject.

It is situate 40 feet from the line of the street, below the level of which the ground it stands on, is about one foot. Observing a part of the street already raised, on further inquiry, I found that it is intended to raise the street opposite to the buildings about 18 inches. To give the house the proper elevation therefore, it became necessary to lay the base $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the bottom of the foundation, the managers have, in my mind, judiciously added, about 15 inches more to the walls, by which they have gained an excellent range of cellars (worth at least thirty pound per year) which may be entered by the rear, without incommoding the front of the building.

The house is a plain brick building, originally intended for two stories high, but it being apprehended that the funds would be rather scanty for building it so large, the managers

were resolved to finish it at one story. It appearing, however, to many well informed inhabitants, that the necessary conveniences could not be had, that it would be great waste of money to put so expensive a roof on a house one story high, that double the accommodation might be obtained for the addition of less than one half the expense; and the managers having received assurances from some liberal minded gentlemen, that they would exert themselves to raise the necessary sum for the object in view, they have been induced to abide by their original intention, that of building it two stories high, and only finishing the upper story this year.

It will be entered by a hall door in front, about four feet wide, hall twelve feet wide, at the end of which will rise a flight of stone steps, six feet long, to a landing about six feet above the floor of the hall; off each end of this landing will rise a flight of steps four feet long, at the top of which will be the doors for entering the school room. The stair case being built on the outside, the school-room will be an oblong of 97 feet, by $32\frac{1}{2}$ feet, without any obstruction therein.

The platform of the teacher is to be raised on the side opposite the entrance, about two feet above the floor, with an acclivity of about one foot will be given, from the middle of the floor to both ends of the room, for the purpose of the better exposing the scholars to the view of the teacher.

On each side the hall door are left openings for five windows, in the rear for nine, and in the upper story there will be eleven windows in front, and the same in the rear. Windows $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide.

Under the stairs there will be two necessities to be entered from without; those being directly above the sewer which communicates with the main sewer in the street, may be kept clean by the water from the spouts round the house, being directed into them.

At the foot of the stairs there is one door on each side, which leads out to the rear ground.

The intention is, as soon as the funds are adequate thereto, to finish the lower story for the accommodation of females alone, it being considered

proper to have the boys and girls in separate apartments.

As to expensive ornament in stone work *there is none*, unless a plain stone door case, or stone coins, base and cornice, may be so called, so far from unnecessary expense in stone work being incurred, a degree of parsimony appears in that respect, as there are no stone coins for the rear corners, nor cornices for the back wall, both of which are necessary for a building, that if possible should never require any repairs, and it is well known that in houses detached from others, nothing falls sooner into decay than brick coins and cornices.

A house such as this Mr. Editor, should be built in the most substantial manner, and no material should be used in it which was not of the strongest, and most durable nature. Economy therefore, is greatly misapplied, and appears to be grossly misunderstood by our retrospective politician: in his supposing that building a house with stone coins and cornices was a breach of the rules of economy.

Such as I have described it, Mr. Editor, is this building, which it has been said by our essayist, is built on too magnificent a scale, such the building, which he has insinuated is ornamented with cut stone, and wherein is exhibited an ostentatious display of architecture, and such the building which has exhausted not only the funds, but the benevolence of the public.

Our politician insists "that no subscriptions can be expected from distant places, for there is no inducement to hold out to remote subscribers to interest them by selfish motives to contribute. Now this I deny, and say, the introduction of the Lancastrian plan of education into Belfast as the capital of the north of Ireland, has an indubitable claim on every town and parish in its neighbourhood, and for these reasons: By the system being established here, the other towns and parishes, will with more facility obtain the knowledge of its practicability. As the managers of the institution will be obliged to bring a person from London to set it on foot, a heavy expense will be incurred by them in the first instance.

And as the knowledge of managing a school of the kind, may be obtained in future by persons attending the one in Belfast, such as may establish them hereafter can have information at a comparatively small expense.

Mr. Editor, my motive in taking the trouble of replying to this article, is the pure and ardent wish I have for the success of a most valuable institution, which I am apprehensive may sustain injury by false impressions being made on the minds of those who are friendly to it, and to remove those impressions of grandeur and magnificence, inculcated by our politician, by showing to the public that the building is a plain one, and that there is nothing superfluous about it, so far from that I am perfectly convinced that were it finished with one story, the necessary convenience would not be had, and that it would cost the public twice the sum to procure those conveniences at a future day, that it will now cost by making the house two stories high.

I shall therefore conclude by breathing an ardent wish for the success of the undertaking, and relying on the good sense and liberality of the public, I have no doubt whatever that it will eventually succeed. I am, sir, yours, &c.

SOLON.

Belfast, 6th Oct. 1810.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

ON THE PAYMENT OF LABOURERS.

The best said he that I can you advise
Is to avoid the occasion of the ill
For when the cause whence evil doth arise,
Removed is, the effect surceaseth still.

MR. EDITOR,

SPENCER.

AT a time when the miseries of
A war, the non-intercourse of nations,
and the consequent depression of trade
bear heard on the laborious class of
society, and render even the industrious
man unable to meet with effect the
exigencies of his family; at a time
when the legislature has licensed the
conversion of provisions into spirits,
at a time in short when so many
causes combine to encrease that mass
of poverty and immorality we witness
in this place, it is hoped that a pro-
posal which would undoubtedly tend